

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 1, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. (November 1, 1896) My dear Alec:

I was too tired to write Saturday night or Friday night. Please forgive me.

Do you approve of my putting out a lot of flags on our house, Flag Day, yesterday? A whole lot of houses on Connecticut Ave. were decorated and Penna. Ave. and F Street were very gay with the flags. At first I said I did not approve for I did not believe in the bringing of our national emblem in party strife and I do not of course doubt the honesty of the rank and file of the silver party. But when I saw the flags upon the Democratic headquarters and remembered that Bryan had endorsed Hanna's suggestion, I didn't see why I shouldn't show my interest in the election, why in fact it wasn't meritorious, so I stopped at a flag store and got some. I enclose you a sample of what everyone wore in his buttonhole yesterday. I wasn't sure what Mamma would say but I find she had out her flag and was only distressed that it hung flat down on the pole and wouldn't wave and that the only bit of yellow she had in the house was that famous yellow silk dress of hers that I wore on one memorable occasion before we were married.

By the time this reaches you the result of the election will be known. I wonder what it will be. Dr. Becker whom someone described as "one big walking capital I" declares there will be a 2 landslide for McKinley and the Pacific coast will go for him, but the general feeling here is of great uncertainty and doubt and uneasiness. Balf was here tonight, he said he was for Silver, that most of the young fellows in the law school were for Bryan and those among the banks for McKinley.

Library of Congress

Cousin Sam wrote Mamma a most extraordinary letter. It sounds as if Gardiner were actually on the mend. He says the doctor "volunteered the opinion that he was stronger and the right lung the only one attacked, was clearing". Doesn't this look as if the case were not so desperate as at first declared? Charles is waiting for my letter so I must close. I love you.

Mabel. I send a quotation that may strike you as clever. Sunday, Nov. 1st. Enclosure was "Where the Rudyards cease, from Kipling And the Haggards ride no more."